

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Editorial

### For Seventy-five Cents

Are there any families in your congregation not taking the EVANGELIST? Call on them and urge the importance of having the church paper in the home. There are but few who cannot afford to pay seventy-five cents for twenty-five visits of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST the balance of the year. Any number of sample copies furnished on application. We shall be glad to mail sample copies to any persons whose names pastors will send to this office. The Publication Board invites your co-operation in increasing the subscription list, and thus increasing the influence of the paper.

### Church Statistics

This week brother J. L. Gillin, secretary of the National Conference of the Brethren church, mails to all ministers in the church and to all Sunday-schools, blank forms, accompanied by a letter giving full instructions. These blank forms are very complete and yet not complicated. They are easily understood, and we urge the co-operation of all ministers and churches and Sunday-schools in filling out these forms in every particular. This is important. In many respects we are at sea for lack of proper statistics. By giving the matter your prompt and careful attention you will do the church a practical service. Do not throw these blanks aside when you receive them, but go to work at once and take special pains to fill them out correctly.

### Shedding Blood

News from the front is daily becoming more and more sanguinary. The war is on now in real earnest, and blood the most precious is being poured out on the altar of Cuban liberty. Should not our pastors and churches pray for the safety, the physical and moral welfare, of the soldier boys who are battling beneath the sweltering tropical sun; and especially for the speedy restoration of peace, and the return of these thousands of our stalwart youth to their homes. Should we not also pray that this shall be the last war in the history of our Republic. Let us hope and pray that the termination of this conflict shall mark the beginning of peace, that golden era of good will among men when the weapons of war shall be transformed into pruning hooks and plow shares of cheerful industry. This wholesale blood-letting is a barbarism which should be her-

metically sealed up in the caverns of a rude age, so far removed from the just idea of a realized Christian civilization as to be well nigh incomprehensible to an enlightened mind.

### Demas

It is a perilous business to preach against the sins of Demas, he has so many blood kin in the world, and alas in the church. He is on hand at almost every sacred function. He recognizes the claims of religion, often takes a front pew where he can look the preacher warningly in the eye, advises volubly and with a tone of authority, prays extensively and unctuously, sometimes prays liberally, but all the same he loves this present world. He loves money, and is sharp at a bargain. When men come to know him they are very careful to avoid his fingers. They have such a squeezing quality, His grip is tremendous. It can reduce you to pulp in short order. It is to be avoided. If you preach against this Demas, look out. Many a poor preacher gets into a close place, just here, between his duty and his interest, his conscience and his courage.

### Smashed

The disastrous collapse of the Leiter wheat deal, involving the loss of millions of dollars to the gay young gambler, awakens no sentiment of sympathy in any quarter of the world. Indeed it is one of those righteous dispensations at which all men rejoice. As he sinks into the obscurity from which he sprung, he is followed by the curses of a million poor, whose bread he made dearer, and whose hunger he made sharper. It ought to be a warning to men who shall hereafter be tempted to put their greedy and thieving fingers into God's great granary. And yet it will not be a warning, for the time is not far distant, unless all signs are playing false, when gigantic combinations of capital will own all the bread of the world, and starve the masses either into subjection or into revolution. Rome went that way. We speak not as a pessimist, for we have faith in the saving power of the gospel. Its principles will triumph in the end. From the case in hand the Boston Journal deduces a financial moral than which none are more to the point: "A moral that shines clearly through all the figures connected with this operation is that a speculator cannot triumph over natural laws. Prices abnormally high increase supply, while prices abnormally low increase demand. No 'corner' can overcome the effect of that simple economic principle. Speculators suffer

from the reactions which follow extremes at either end, but the masses escape without any great loss. The producer sometimes gains from the consumer, and vice versa, while the speculator is likely to get his commission; but in Leiter's case he has enriched the producer at the cost of the consumer, without making anything for himself out of the process." Surely, "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

### Good Citizens' League

The second annual convention of the National Citizens' League will be held at Nashville, Tenn., July 11-13, 1898. The object of the League is that of reform in political and social life, to arouse the religious and patriotic conscience of the people, so that the individual will feel it a part of his duty to assist in the eradication of existing evils in every way possible, and especially in the selection for public office of "able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain." Too many men have devoted all their time to their business and left politics to those who make politics a trade. The result is political conditions that make any business venture risky and hard times universal. If the real business men of the Nation would realize the necessity of taking an intelligent part in politics, the result would be better men in office, better laws more rigidly enforced, wiser policies, less pauperism, less crime and immorality of every kind, and more righteousness, prosperity and happiness all over the land. The League is non-sectarian and non-partisan in character, and therefore invites patriotic citizens of all creeds and of all political parties to attend the Nashville convention, and join hearts and hands in this great movement so full of hope for humanity. Churches of all denominations, societies of Christian Endeavor and other young people's societies, Reform leagues, temperance and patriotic societies, W. C. T. U.'s., Y. M. C. A.'s. and all kindred organizations throughout the United States are urged to send delegates to this convention.

### The Reason of It

In the two issues of *Cheering Words* for July 10 and 17 the reader will find an unusual number of typographical errors. The proof was read by one inexperienced in that branch of the business and that accounts for these errors. They are, however, not of such a nature as to destroy the sense or the meaning intended by the writers.